Official Controls in the EU
Regulation (EC) No 882/2004
“Pitchfork to Fork”

Paris, 12 October 2009
Farm to Fork – Motivating Factors

- Ambition for higher levels of protection for both animal & human health
- Creation of an internal market in the EC where trade could take place on a safe basis
- Dynamics of a post-industrial society
- Lessons learned from food safety crisis
- International obligations and objectives.
Motivating Factors (continued)

- Consumer demands
- The retail chain
Farm to Fork - Response

- A comprehensive European Community legal framework.
- The European Community “Food Law”, “Hygiene Package” and “Food and Feed Controls Regulation”.
- Clear designation of responsibilities and close links with Member States.
- Transparency, accountability, speed of response.
- Commission Inspection Service, European Food Safety Authority and Community Reference Laboratories.
The role of the Veterinarian

- Indispensable and irreplaceable.
- All key legislation and control measures emphasise the critical role of the Veterinarian.
- Specific role and responsibilities spelled out in detail in legislation.
- The Veterinarian’s role is ambitious and wide-ranging.
The challenges facing Veterinarians

- The Vet’s work does not stop with safe food and healthy animals.
- New challenges require veterinary expertise.
- Health – Avian Flu
- Climate Change – contribution of livestock industry and land use change.
- Food Security – how to double food production by 2050.
New Challenges (continued)

- The Economy: Europe’s largest manufacturing industry and employer.
- Trade: food accounts for 6% of world trade and is very sensitive to disruption.
- Science and Society: Citizens continue to be obsessive about their food and how it is produced.
- Research, environment, competition.....
What we look for when recruiting a Veterinarian

- Formal academic qualifications are the easiest requirement.
- Versatile, multi-disciplinary, team player, problem solver.
Official controls in the EU
Legal basis


Official controls in the EU

Regulation (EC) 882/2004

- Aims to improve Community’s system of official controls to ensure the verification of compliance with EU legislation;
- Introduces performance criteria for the competent authorities;
- Better definition of tasks;
- Harmonisation of the role of control services and integration of controls across the entire food chain.
Official controls in the EU

Purpose of official controls:

- To **prevent or eliminate risks** which may arise, either directly or via the environment, for human beings and animals, **or reduce these risks to an acceptable level**;

- To **guarantee fair practices** as regards trade in food and feed and the protection of consumers' interests, including labelling of food and feed and any other form of information intended for consumers.
Official controls in the EU
Definition and scope

Intended for the verification of compliance with:
- EU feed law,
- EU food law,
- EU rules on animal health, animal welfare and certain aspects of plant health.
Official controls in the EU
Definition and scope

Applies to:
- All food
- All feed
  - feed for food producing animals
  - Pet food
- Live animals
- Plants*, limited to:
  - Multiannual national control plans
  - Community inspections

Official controls in the EU
Member States

Official controls shall be carried out taking into account:

- the identified risks;
- the experience and knowledge gained from previous controls;
- the reliability of the controls already carried out by the business operators concerned;
- a suspicion of possible non-compliance.
Official controls in the EU
Member States

Official controls shall be carried out:
- On a **regular basis** and with a **frequency** based on risk
- **Without prior warning** (as a general rule)
- At **any stage** of production processing and distribution
- Including **imports/exports**
Official controls in the EU
National enforcement measures

- National control plans: integrated multi-annual control plans, annual reports
- Effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties/sanctions
- Administrative measures for non-compliance (corrective measures, restrictions on feed and food, recall, destruction, closure etc.)
Official controls in the EU
Community enforcement measures

- EU control services (Food and Veterinary Office):
  - General audit of Member States’ control systems
  - Specific audits and inspections in case of risk

- In case of **serious failure of control system** of a Member State:
  - Safeguard measures (In third countries, procedure Regulation (EC) 178/2002)
  - Infringement procedure (art. 226 of Treaty)
Official controls in the EU
Training of Official Veterinarians


Training of the official veterinarians:

1. The competent authority may appoint only veterinarians who have passed a test meeting the requirements of paragraph 2 as official veterinarians.

2. The competent authority must make arrangements for the test.

3. The test is to confirm knowledge of the subjects relevant for the private schemes/management systems.
Main actors of the enforcement cycle

**EU Food Safety Legislation**
European Parliament and Council

- National enforcement measures
  - Competent authorities in Member States:
    - Implementing legislation
    - MANCP
    - Annual Reports

- Community enforcement measures
  - European Commission:
    - FVO (General Audits, Specific audits and inspections)
    - Implementing legislation
    - safeguard measures

- Risk assessment
  - EFSA
Thank you for your attention